

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

February 23, 2017

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

**Governor's H.B. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFORE**

Good afternoon Senator Osten and Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

I started coming to InterCommunity, seeing a therapist, because I was in trouble with the court system and also I was suffering from stress. I became a member of Common Ground and joined their unfunded young adult program. My progress continued to go up and down; I still had stress and blackouts. Even though I still dealt with these things, I felt comfortable when I could be around positive people my own age. They cared about me.

Now I am a certified Recovery Support Specialist, so I have the opportunity to help other people who are having problems like I used to. Everything I have learned helps me to help other people today.

None of this would be possible without DMHAS funding, because they are helping people from all different ages learn different skills. I am the successful person I am today, because of DMHAS programs like InterCommunity.

I am also on the Catchment Area Council and Keep the Promise Coalition, so I work closely with the Regional Mental Health Boards and Connecticut Legal Rights Project. I am proud to know them and would be very sad for the people of Connecticut if these programs got cut.

Thank you,

Carlos Martinez